

IN MEMORIAM ADOLF LENDL (1862—1943)*

ADOLF LENDL was born in Orczyfalva (then in county Temes), on May 6th 1862. His father was chief medical officer of the county. Educated in Temesvár, in a modern technical school, he was studying at the Polytechnic and the University in Budapest. His talent, diligence and devotion to science soon attracted attention, in spite of his great modesty. In 1886—1887 he was assistant professor at the zoological chair of the University in Budapest. He took his teacher's diploma in 1884, his doctor's degree in 1887, both in the University of Budapest. In 1887 he accompanied the prominent Hungarian ornithologist, OTTO HERMAN to Norway and they studied there the life of the northern bird-mountains. In 1888 he was already privat-docent at the Polytechnic in Budapest. From 1888 to 1890 he was deputy professor in the same institute. In 1890—94 he was under-keeper of the zoological department of the Hungarian National Museum and leader of its taxidermist laboratory. In 1894 he gave up his post and started a taxidermist and school-equipment manufacturing laboratory in Budapest. In Hungary, before ADOLF LENDL nobody had tried to establish an undertaking like that. By starting the laboratory, he wanted first of all to help for the great inadequacy of the means of school demonstration. In that time his personal activity as a taxidermist was particularly strong, without giving up, however, his scientific research work. He took the possession of a great lot of material collected for being mounted, its investigation considerably enriched his zoological knowledge. He has observed, for instance, that the brain of the small very shaggy black Hungarian sheep-dog ("puli") is more developed than that of the other sheep-dogs. In 1901 he was elected a Member of Parliament in the constituency of Temesrékás. The population of his constituency was first of all engaged in growing cabbages and was in severe distress. LENDL taught them to grow wares preserved in a unitary way and satisfying even the demands of wholesale trade and to sell them in proper markets. Owing to his activity, the living standards of people have risen in his constituency in a high degree.

In 1906 ADOLF LENDL headed an expedition to Asia Minor. It was four of them. They have collected mainly on the Anatolian plateau and in the Taurus mountain. As a rule, they walked. They carried the scientific material packed in cases in carts to the railway station and there posted them to Budapest. LENDL has collected not only a huge amount of zoological material but, in addition, he was interested in everything. He has observed equally the life of people, their customs, outlook, personal belongings, the relics of the old Assyrian civilization, and the situation of the European settlers. In 1907 he was collecting in Argentina, at the request of the Museums of La Plata and Buenos Aires. On that occasion, he walked with a single attendant through the South-American continent, first from East to West

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and then back. They were escorted by an Argentinian mounted soldier who rode before with the stock in hand and collected material, waiting for them in the appointed place every evening.

The great walking-tour lasted there and back six months. In the huge amount of its material have participated not only the museums of Argentine but the Hungarian National Museum, as well. LENDL made during the expedition systematically maps and observed also the life of population.

ADOLF LENDL was in the years 1911—1919 the director of the Zoological and Botanic Gardens in Budapest. He has reconstructed the whole institution. Before he had studied personally a lot of European zoological gardens. At reconstruction, he took first of all pattern by HAGENBECK's zoological garden in Hamburg. His zoological garden had a high European level in this time.

He got on with his research work systematically even during his being the director of the Zoological Gardens. His microscope was unparalleled in his time. Putting together two draw-tubes, he could magnify twenty-thousand times. His social activity was always very intensive. In 1916 he wrote, under the title "Hősökfalva" (Village of Heroes) a lengthy publication in the interest of the disabled soldiers of World War. He wants let the disabled persons get land grants. The land would not have been a present nor a tenure but simply given into cultivation by the State. He calculated three "hold" of land (1 "hold" 0.57 hectares) per capita, recommending on that small area a profitable labour (fruit- and vegetable-growing, poultry-farming, bee-keeping, etc.). The plan was elaborated with an exact budget. He demonstrated that its realization would be good not only for the disabled persons but also for society. His paper "Jövöbetekintés" (Prescience) was published in 1917. It contains a detailed townplanning programme of Budapest, thinking on developing the foreign tourist traffic, as well. In 1917 he became an associate of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. The sponsor of his being an associate was the then professor of zoology in the University of Budapest, LAJOS MÉHELY. The sponsoring writing is enumerating LENDL's papers of zoological topics in 75 lines.

The proletarian dictatorship of 1919 was received by ADOLF LENDL with much pleasure. He expected of it the development of the Zoological Gardens and of the Hungarian National Museum and generally making science public property. His paper entitled "A plan of the new Museum for Natural History and Ethnography" was published in 1919. In that he makes clear that the Museum has to serve not only the direct science but also adult education. The great and deep economic reform is followed by a general social transformation. One of the major factors of that is deepening the cultural development. The lower ranks of people are to be raised up to a more civilized stage. His detailed plans describing the Museum to be created are perfect both from professional and from didactic points of view, even if regarded at present. He has demonstrated, too, that the old regime had committed omissions in the field of the development of civilization. His sympathy for the Hungarian Soviet Republic was not forgiven him by the government after the downfall of the Republic. He was dismissed from being the director of the Zoological Gardens and was not re-admitted to the Hungarian Academy of Science, either. In 1929 he retired. In 1932 he drew back also from scientific life and retired to Keszthely. There he still lived for 21 years quietly, retired but not withdrawn into himself. He took long constitutional walks, was interested in everything and endeavoured, all the while, to spread the interest in biology. His inner world remained serene and peaceful till the end. He was a person generally known and beloved in the environ-

ment of his home. In 1934 he wrote a series of articles entitled "Keszthely letters about planned economy" in the periodical "Balatoni Kurir" (Courier of Balaton). In that he explains that in the vicinity of his home there would be help for the poverty of people if they could utilize the possibilities given by nature. He refers to his experiences in Denmark and Holland. He demonstrates that fowl-houses, pigsties and hothouses could be heated with the water of Hévíz canal in Keszthely. In hot-houses flower and vegetable primeurs could be grown. Also breeding of fur animals, wholesale production of quince jelly and prunes of a unitary quality would be profitable. The wares produced would be disposed of by co-operatives.

The number of ADOLF LENDL's papers exceeded 300. He has first of all dealt with morphology, histology, anatomy, ecology and taxonomy of spiders and harvest—spiders. His research work was characterized, in spite of being so comprehensive, by a profound study of details. In his collecting journeys he gathered a zoological material of enormous quantity and scientific value. He attached great importance to popular works and a considerable part of his papers is of educational character. He published, and edited the periodical "Természet" (Nature) for ten years, exerting a rich literary activity for the Zoological Gardens, as well. His educational writings are written in an elevated scientific spirit and with a good didactic sense. Apart from his zoological papers, his writings imparting a new impulse to the economic life are remarkable, too. There reverberate from these: a scientific outlook, unselfish readiness to help, and an excellent common sense.

ADOLF LENDL was great as scientist, as a militant character of public life, and even as a human being. He was an exceptional personality being so unselfish, modest, good-hearted, serene and tranquil in mind. He lived with the smallest possible demand, modestly yet happily. He never asked for, only always gave. His highest aim was during his whole life to raise the cultural and economic level of the Hungarian people. With his progressive spirit, he preceded his age in a great many respects. His memory is kept green by a statue at the gateway of the Zoological Gardens in Budapest, but it ever remains in our hearts, as well.

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